

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7497

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VE.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (DUDAS, TRAIAN), ETRN, RO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MINISTER DUDAS

REF: STATE 084046

1. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED INVITATION TO MINISTER DUDAS ON APRIL 16. DUDAS APPEALED FOR CONTINUATION OF EARLIER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON TRAVEL. MINISTER INDICATED PRINCIPAL AREAS OF INTEREST WHICH SUGGEST NUMBER OF PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN APRIL 16 CALL ON MINISTER DUDAS, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CHINA, AMBASSADOR EXTENDED SECRETARY COLEMAN'S INVITATION TO VISIT US LAST WEEK OF MAY. MINISTER DUDAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S KIND INVITATION, NOTING HE WAS CERTAIN THAT VISIT WOULD IMPROVE EXISTING GOOD COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT. IN VIEW OF CROWDED AGENDA, DUDAS INDICATED HE WOULD REFER INVITATION TO HIGHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN APPROVAL. IN EVENT TIMING WOULD POSE PROBLEM, DUDAS INQUIRED WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE. AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT EARLY FALL WOULD BE OTHER,
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ALTHOUGH LESS CERTAIN, POSSIBILITY.

3. ON QUESTION OF FUNDING, AMBASSADOR NOTED MODIFIED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD APPLY TO THIS VISIT AS OPPOSED TO EARLIER VISIT OF DRAGENESCU. MINISTER MADE STRONG APPEAL AT SEVERAL POINTS IN CONVERSATION THAT PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY BE RETAINED, POINTING OUT THAT TWO SECRETARIES OF TRANSPORTATION (FORMER SECRETARY VOLPE AS WELL AS FORMER SECRETARY BRINEGAR) HAD VISITED ROMANIA ON ALL-EXPENSES PAID BASIS CONTRASTED WITH ONE ROMANIAN. HE STATED HE WOULD ONLY BRING NUMBER OF CLOSE ADVISORS COMPARABLE TO THAT BROUGHT BY BRINEGAR (HE RECALLED SEVEN OR EIGHT PERSONS). AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT CURRENT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS APPLIED TO ALL MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT OF ALL COUNTRIES, BUT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE RELAY MINISTER'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON. IF IT WERE NOT POSSIBLE TO APPLY PAST FORMULA, DUDAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BASIS COULD BE CHANGED.

4. PROGRAM PROPOSALS WERE EXPLORED IN SOME DETAIL. MINISTER RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO OUR SUGGESTIONS AND OFFERED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST:

A) PORTS. DUDAS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VISITS TO BOTH FRESH WATER PORT AND SEA PORT. PORT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (WHICH FALL WITHIN MINIST JURISDICTION), CONTAINERIZATION AND BARGE OPERATIONS WOULD HAVE SPECIAL APPEAL. NEW ORLEANS WAS SUGGESTED BY ONE OF MINISTER'S AIDES AS SPECIFIC POSSIBILITY. GIVEN PROPOSED GOR JOINT VENTURE WITH ISLAND CREEK, COAL LOADING OPERATIONS WOULD, IN EMBASSY VIEW, HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE (SEE BUCHAREST 1928 AND 2078 ON PROBLEM RELATING TO ACCESS OF GOR VESSELS TO HAMPTON ROADS).

B) NAVIGABLE CANALS. REFERRING TO GOR'S CONSTRUCTION OF DANUBE CANAL, DUDAS INDICATED HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LOCKS, CANAL MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC CONTROL.

C) INTER-MODAL SHIPMENTS. MINISTER EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE OPERATION OF DOOR-TO-DOOR CONTAINERIZATION SYSTEMS.

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D) RAILROADS. POSSIBILITY HERE WOULD BE ADVANCED AUTOMATED TRAFFIC CONTROL.

E) POSTAL AFFAIRS. MECHANIZATION OF MAIL HANDLING AND SORTING IDENTIFIED AS PRINCIPAL INTEREST.

F) TELECOMMUNICATIONS. IN VIEW OF ROMANIA'S CONSTRUCTION OF SATELLITE GROUND STATION, MINISTER WAS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF DISCUSSIONS WITH COMSAT OR WESTERN UNION.

5. ASIDE FROM PRIMARY DISCUSSIONS AT DOT, SEVERAL OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR WASHINGTON CALLS EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION. IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH USPS, CALL THERE MIGHT BE USEFUL. ON BASIS OF CONTACTS MADE BY RECENT DELEGATION FROM MINISTRY, DISCUSSIONS WITH FCC MIGHT ALSO BE APPROPRIATE.

6. MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (BALASOIU) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RAIMUNDO OF DOT PAY VISIT TO BUCHAREST PRIOR TO MAY 10 TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AREA. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO REACH AGREEMENT PRIOR TO MINISTER DUDAS' VISIT.

7. WE WOULD COMMUNICATE MINISTER'S PREFERENCE REGARDING TIMING AS SOON AS WE HEAR FROM HIM. IN ENSUING CONTACTS WITH MINISTRY, WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE REFINEMENT TO AND MODIFICATIONS OF ABOVE INTERESTS.

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